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Contact:

**David Vossbrink, (408) 277-3515
Communications Director**

San José Set to Receive Nearly \$11 Million in Federal Homeland Security Funding

Direct funding to San José recognizes importance of major urban areas

San José --- San José will receive nearly \$11 million as part of the additional \$725 million dollars from the Department of Homeland Security FY '04 budget for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grants to major cities to help with local security programs and first responder services.

The increase in funding for urban areas will help American cities to enhance their overall security and preparedness level to prevent, respond, and recover from acts of terrorism.

San José was added to the list of 50 cities receiving grants based on new federal criteria that reflect critical infrastructure, population density, and potential for credible threats.

“I am relieved and grateful that the federal government has recognized that San José must be included among the urban areas that need additional resources to help protect our residents from potential terror attacks,” said San José Mayor Ron Gonzales.

Although with a population of nearly 1 million urban residents that makes it the eleventh largest city in the country, San José has not received significant federal funding or reimbursements for the city’s additional security investments and costs over the past two years.

San José will receive \$9,982,442 in UASI funding in this grant cycle. In addition, the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) will receive \$800,000 in Metro Rail Transit Grants.

“Since September 11, the nation’s big cities have strained their budgets to protect our communities,” said the mayor. “These funds are most welcome to help us continue our strong commitment to protect the lives of our residents and support our police officers and firefighters who the first to respond to emergencies of all kinds.”

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Funding allocations among cities, are based on a federal urban area assessments and strategic plan. Eighty percent of the funds allocated to states under this program must be awarded to designated cities and contiguous counties within the urban area based on the federal strategic plan.

San José Vice Mayor Pat Dando, who serves on the National League of Cities Homeland Security Task Force, joined mayor in praising the federal announcement.

"This is great news and it's a testament to our effective advocacy in Washington to remind federal officials that big cities carry the biggest share of the burden to protect America," said Dando. "I was honored to represent San José as we worked for federal funding that will help us keep our residents safe."

The city expects to receive the federal funding in the next several months.

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